Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure in a document, <u>where a plurality of rules are associated with</u> the implicitly defined semantic structure ~~including a first term and a second term~~;

determining a location of [[the]] <u>a</u> first term and a location of [[the]] <u>a</u> second term within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

selecting one of [[a]] <u>the</u> plurality of rules based on a relationship of the locations of the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

determining a distance value between the first and second terms using the selected rule; and

outputting the distance value to rank the document for relevancy to a search query that includes the first term and the second term.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the document being an HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) document.

3.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the implicitly defined semantic structure includes a list created with HTML tags.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the HTML tags include paragraph tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

        locating explicitly defined semantic structures.

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the implicitly defined semantic structure including a list.

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the distance value being calculated as a word count between the first and second terms in the document augmented by ones of the rules related to the implicitly defined semantic structure.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the implicitly defined semantic structure includes:

        identifying repeating occurrences of a set of two or more text formatting commands.

9.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the implicitly defined semantic structure includes a title or a heading.

10.   (Currently amended) A device comprising:

        means for identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with

terms in a document, where a number of rules are associated with the implicitly defined

semantic structure;

        means for determining a location relationship that exists between a pair of the

terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

        means for determining which one of [[a]] the number of rules corresponds to the

location relationship;

        means for determining a distance value between the pair of terms based on the

one rule;

        means for generating a ranking score for the document based on the distance

value; and

        means for outputting the ranking score.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

        identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in a

plurality of documents, where a number of rules are associated with the implicitly defined

semantic structure;

        locating a first term and a second term occurring within the implicitly defined

semantic structure;

selecting, based on a relationship of the locations of the first and second terms, at least one of [[a]] the number of rules to be used in determining a distance value between the first and second terms;

determining, using the at least one rule, the distance value between the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure when the first and second terms occur in a search query;

ranking the documents for relevancy to the search query based on the determined distance value; and

outputting the rankings of the documents in response to the search query.

13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, the determining the distance value including:

determining whether the first and second terms are present within a list.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the list is implicitly defined.

15.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, the determining the distance value further including:

assigning a distance value indicative of closeness when the first and second terms are present in a same item of the list.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the implicitly

defined semantic structure is identified prior to the ranking.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the documents are HTML (Hyper-

Text Markup Language) documents.

19.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the implicitly defined

semantic structure includes lists created with HTML tags.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the HTML tags include paragraph

tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.

21.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, the determining the

distance value including:

        determining whether the first and second terms are present within a title or

heading.

22.   (Currently amended) A device comprising:

        a memory; and

        a processor coupled to the memory to:

                identify a semantic structure associated with terms occurring in a

document, where a plurality of rules are associated with the semantic structure;

determine various distance relationships that exist between the terms in the identified semantic structure;

select one of [[a]] the plurality of rules that corresponds to each of the distance relationships;

determine, using the selected rule, semantically based distance values between those of the terms that occur in a search query;

rank the document for relevancy to the search query based on the semantically based distance values; and

provide at least some of the ranks in response to the search query.

23.   (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, the processor being further configured to:

locate implicitly defined semantic structures in the document; and

use the implicitly defined semantic structures in determining the semantically based distance values.

24.   (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, the processor being further configured to:

receive the search query.

25.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a search query;

identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in documents, where a plurality of rules are associated with the implicitly defined semantic structure;

determining a semantic based distance between a first term and a second term within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

selecting one of [[a]] the plurality of rules based on the semantic based distance between the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

determining, using the selected rule, a distance value for the first and second terms;

ranking the documents for relevancy to the search query based on the distance value; and

presenting the documents in an order influenced by the ranking.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the documents are HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) documents.

27.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, the implicitly defined semantic structure including a list created with HTML tags.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

locating explicitly defined semantic structures.